

Subject: Impacts on COVID-19 on Long-Term Care Facilities

August 24, 2020

Dear Texas House of Representatives:

My brother Darrell lives in the Lufkin State Supported Living Center. The Center have had visitor restrictions since March 13, 2020. Darrell has down syndrome and is mentally retarded. He thrives on our visits to maintain his mental and physical health. Without my brother and I being able to visit has been extremely stressful on the both of us. I am Darrell's only surviving family member. Darrell's favorite magazine is the Sports Illustrated. He looks forward to our visits because he knows he will be getting the most recent edition. Yes, I have mailed the magazines but it's just not the same as giving and receiving in person. I miss Darrell and his misses me. I miss giving Darrell a hug and receiving his wet kisses. Darrell needs to know that I have not abandoned him. I need to physically see Darrell to make sure his needs are being met and that he is safe. We both need to know that each other is okay. Its time reinstate visitations to the State Supported Living Centers. With personal protection equipment and proper screening of visitors it would no different than it is for staff members. Please have mercy on our family members and reinstate visitation hours.

Respectfully,

Phyllis Wilburn